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Young Men's Christian Association of Montreal

For release at will.

Y WORKER DEFINES INSTITUTIONAL ROLE

Attempts to oversimplify human problems can be dangerous.

"Reality is complex. For institutions to treat it otherwise would be impractical and possibly destructive," warned Robert Landreville of the Montreal Downtown YMCA.

In defining the growing role of institutions today, he suggested that only those prepared and willing to adjust quickly to changing needs will be able to survive.

"Change is not new. Because it's happening more quickly--and is more visible--never before have so many people been conscious of it, and its effects on their way of life," he told participants in the Montreal YMCA's campaign for $375,000.

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Unfortunately, he suggested, many organizations are by nature not geared to adapt themselves to different conditions. They sometimes wait to act on real needs because they don't conform closely enough to institutional goals.

"We have to keep reminding ourselves that to remain in step, we must never forget that last year's urgent needs may be irrelevant tomorrow. As long as we do so, we will continue to attract support and grow."

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March 20, 1969.

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